

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Examiner's Office Action dated August 25, 2006. Of the pending claims at that time, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14, 16, and 23 were rejected. However, claims 2, 4, 9-13, and 16-18 were indicated as allowable. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

Independent claims 2 and 9 were indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 by including all the limitations of dependent claim 2. Applicants have also removed a limitation that was added to originally filed claim 1. Applicants have amended dependent claim 9 to include limitations of originally filed independent claim 1. In light of these amendments, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable.

Dependent claim 16 was indicated as allowable. Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to include the limitations of dependent claim 16. Applicants have also removed a limitation that was added to originally filed claim 14. In light of these amendments, Applicants submit that independent claim 14 is allowable.

Dependent claim 10 was indicated as allowable. Applicants have amended independent claim 23 to include the allowable limitations of claim 10. Applicants submit that given the proximity between independent claims 1 and 23, amended claim 23 is allowable by virtue of inclusion of allowable limitations of claim 10.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on November 21 2006.


Attorney for Applicants

11/21/06
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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